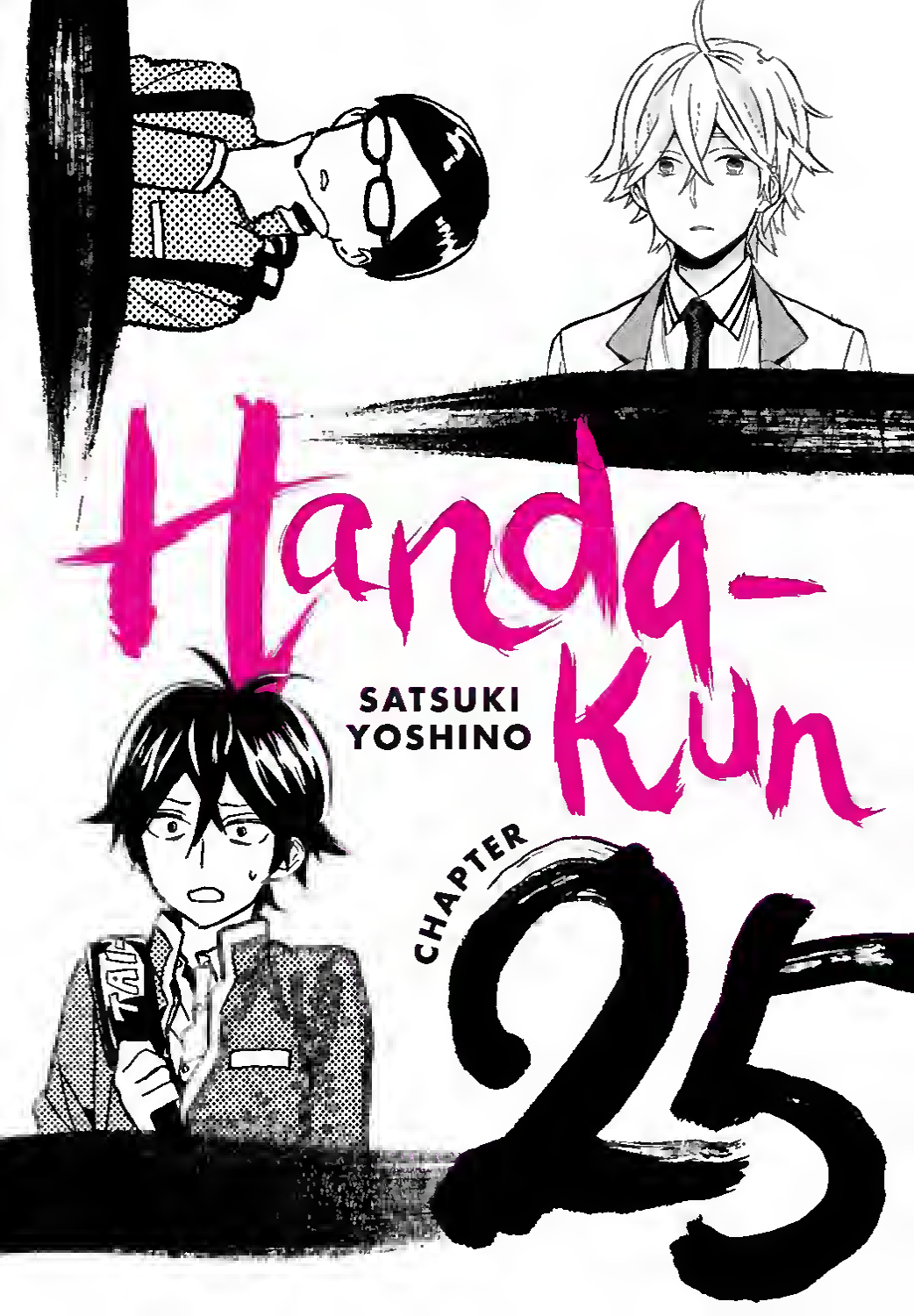
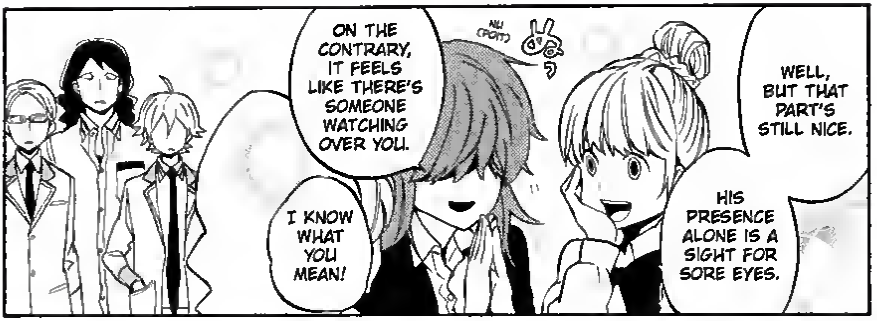
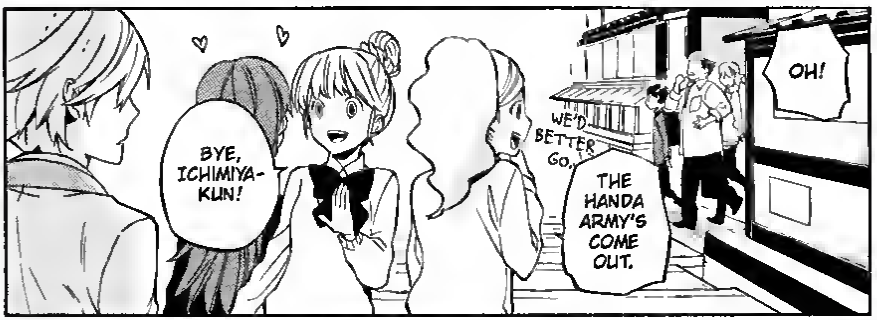

Handa-Kun
SATSUKI YOSHINO
CHAPTER
25

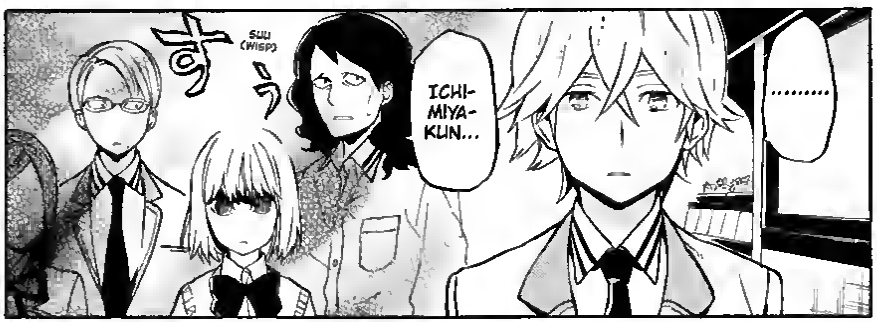
I WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE ITINERARY FOR OUR FINAL DAY.
RYOZEN HISTORY MUSEUM
↓
GOKOKU SHRINE (RYOUMA'S GRAVE, RYOUMA STATUE)
↓
MARUYAMA PARK (RYOUMA STATUE)
KEITER, WRITE THIS DOWN.
GREAT EATS!
TODAY'S ROUTE IS A "BAKUMATSU RYOUMA" PILGRIMAGE.
コクリ
KOKURI (NOD)
...BUT SINCE IT'S A BIT FARTHER AWAY, TAKE CARE NOT TO STRAY FROM THE GROUP.
THE LAST STOP WILL BE TERADAYA...
PUNKS SURE ARE SCARY.
IN THAT CASE, YOU MAY DO THEM IN.
BUT THEN THEY MIGHT GO AFTER OUR LEADER NEXT.
GIRI (GRIT)
ESPECIALLY YOU, TSUKKUN. RESIST RISING TO THE WHITE SHIRTS' BAIT.

# Chapter 25: Handa-kun & the Class Trip, Final Day

SILLY ICHIMIYA-KUN! FOR SOMEONE SO PRINCELY, YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY!
NO WONDER YOU'RE POPULAR!
ICHIMIYA-KUN'S ADEPT AT PUBLIC SPEAKING AS WELL.
HE'S A WAY BETTER MAN THAN THE LIKES OF HANDA.
OH, WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY COMPARE THE TWO!
LIKE, WE'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED TO HANDA-KUN.
EH?
NEVER TALKED TO HIM?
ISN'T HANDA-KUN THE MOST POPULAR PERSON AT GRAY-SCHOOL?
HE IS, BUT...
EVEN THE HANDA ARMY HAS TROUBLE TALKING TO HIM.

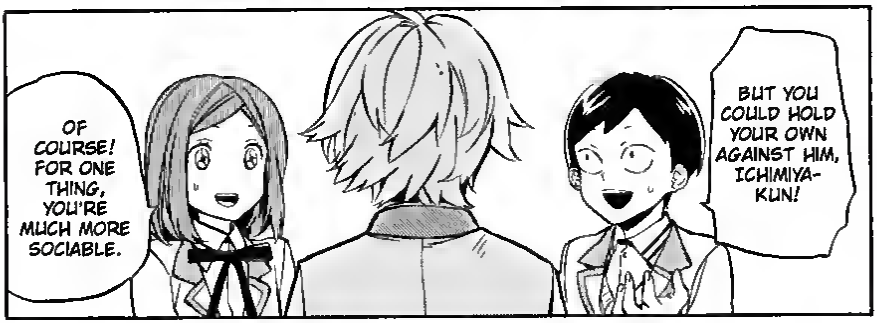

WELL, BUT THAT PART'S STILL NICE.
HIS PRESENCE ALONE IS A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.
NU (POUT)
ON THE CONTRARY, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE WATCHING OVER YOU.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

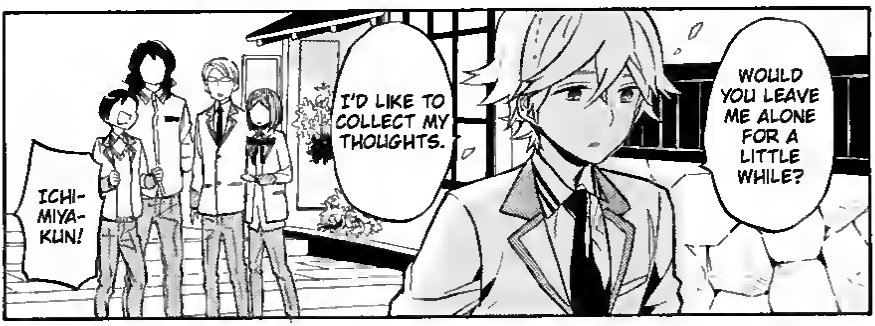

OH!
WE'D BETTER GO.
THE HANDA ARMY'S COME OUT.
BYE, ICHIMIYA-KUN!

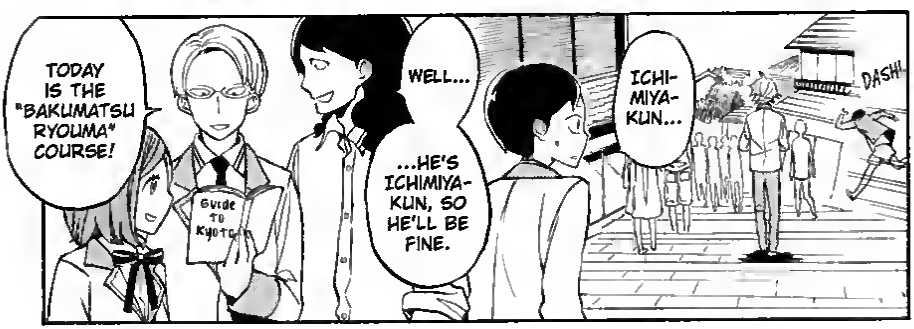

.....
ICHI-MIYA-KUN...
SUU (WISP)

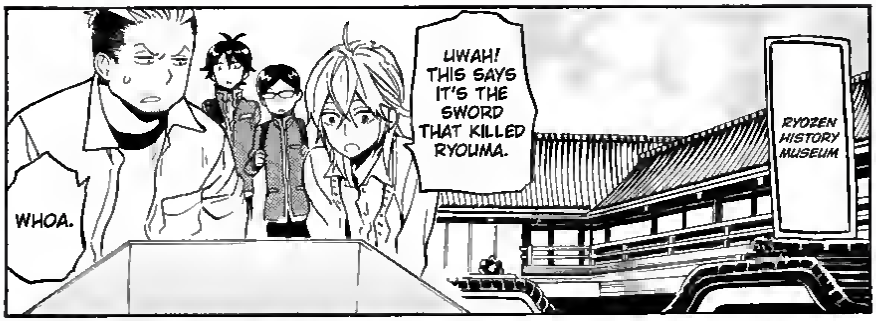
GETTING TOO CLOSE TO HIM...
...WILL SPLINTER YOUR PSYCHE.

DOES ASSOCIATING WITH HANDA TURN YOU INTO THAT?
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT GIRL?
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH..
ERASER


OF COURSE! FOR ONE THING, YOU'RE MUCH MORE SOCIABLE.
BUT YOU COULD HOLD YOUR OWN AGAINST HIM, ICHIMIYA-KUN!


ICHI-MIYA-KUN!
I'D LIKE TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS.
WOULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE?


TODAY IS THE "BAKUMATSU RYOUMA" COURSE!
Guide TO KYOTO
WELL...
...HE'S ICHIMIYA-KUN, SO HE'LL BE FINE.
ICHI-MIYA-KUN...
DASH!


WHOA.
UWAH! THIS SAYS IT'S THE SWORD THAT KILLED RYOUMA.
RYOZEN HISTORY MUSEUM

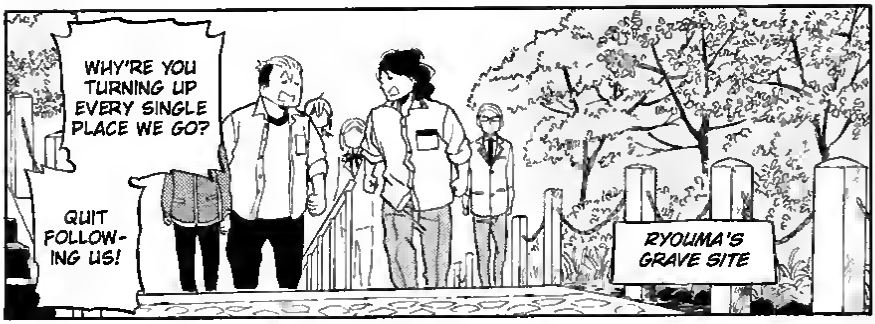
I CAN FEEL SOME SINISTER AURA FROM IT.
A SWORD THAT TOOK A MAN'S LIFE...

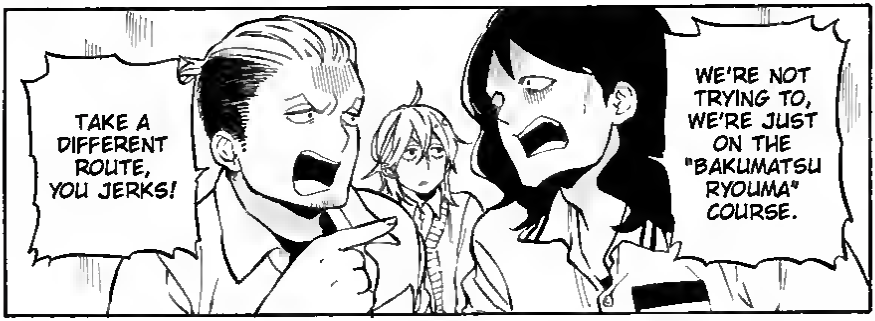
HUH? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
HANDA-KUN, YOU'VE GOT A SWORD COLLECTION, RIGHT?

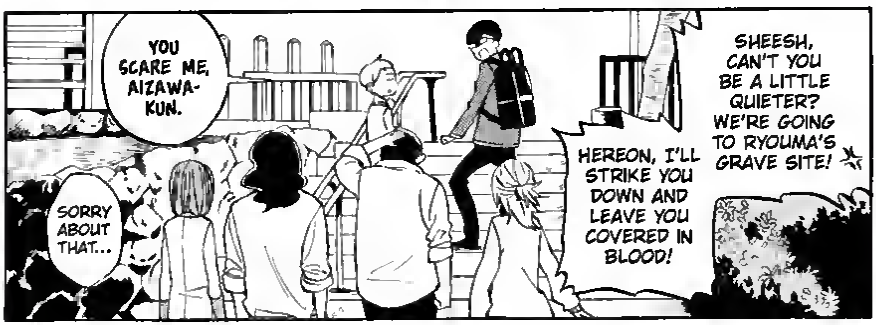
I SHOULDN'T TAKE THEIR COMMENTS SERIOUSLY. I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING JOKEY IN RESPONSE.
LIKE HELL I HAVE!!
EVER KILLED ANY-ONE?
THAT'S HARD-CORE!
SO, WHICH STYLES DO YOU FOLLOW?

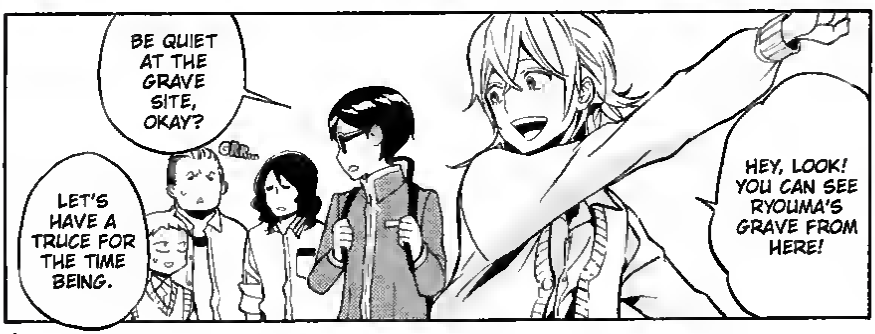
BOSO (MUTTER)
YES, I SWORD-IDLY...
...CUT DOWN A MAN WITH MY CUTANA...
ZOWA (CHILL)
WHAT AM I SAYING?
...FOILING HIS PLANS.
WHAT THE—!?
MY JOKES BOMBED!?
RURU (SHIVER)
DANG...
O-OH, I...I SEE...

BEST BE SURE NEVER TO ANGER HIM.
HE'S WALKED A WHOLE DIFFERENT ERA.
A SPONTANEOUS RIFT
KAAAAA (BLUSH)
カァァァ
DAMN! AND I THOUGHT MY DELIVERY WAS GOOD TOO!
S-SOUNDS GOOD!
Photo Corner
OH HEY, THEY'VE GOT A SPOT FOR PHOTO-GRAPHS HERE!
YOU GUYS AGAIN!?
SAY, "ICH-EESE"!
WHILE WE'RE HERE, LET'S ALL TAKE—

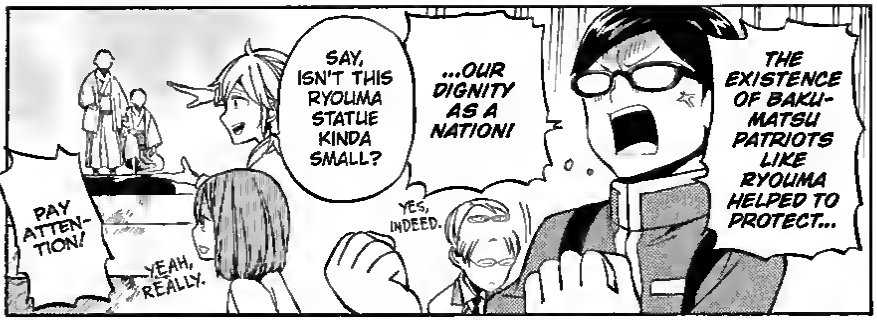

WHY'RE YOU TURNING UP EVERY SINGLE PLACE WE GO?
QUIT FOLLOW-ING US!
RYOUMA'S GRAVE SITE

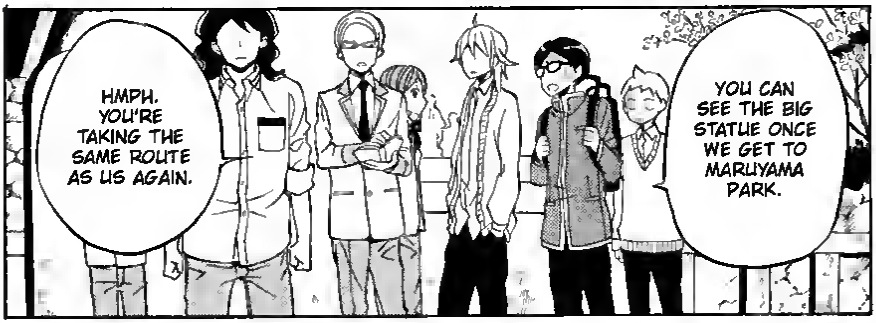

TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE, YOU JERKS!
WE'RE NOT TRYING TO, WE'RE JUST ON THE "BAKUMATSU RYOUMA" COURSE.


YOU SCARE ME, AIZAWA-KUN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
HEREON, I'LL STRIKE YOU DOWN AND LEAVE YOU COVERED IN BLOOD!
SHEESH, CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE QUIETER? WE'RE GOING TO RYOUMA'S GRAVE SITE!

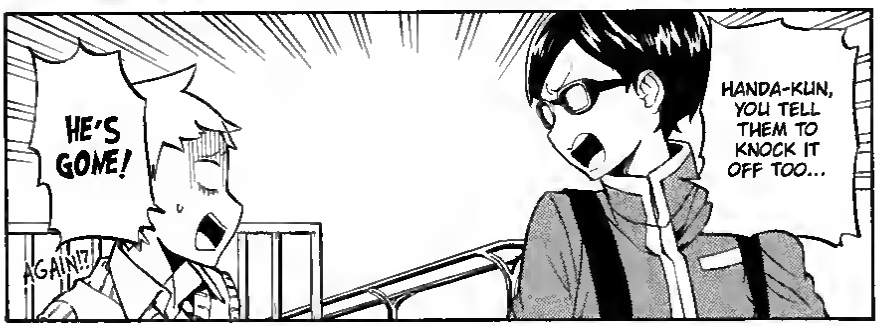

BE QUIET AT THE GRAVE SITE, OKAY?
GRR...
LET'S HAVE A TRUCE FOR THE TIME BEING.
HEY, LOOK! YOU CAN SEE RYOUMA'S GRAVE FROM HERE!

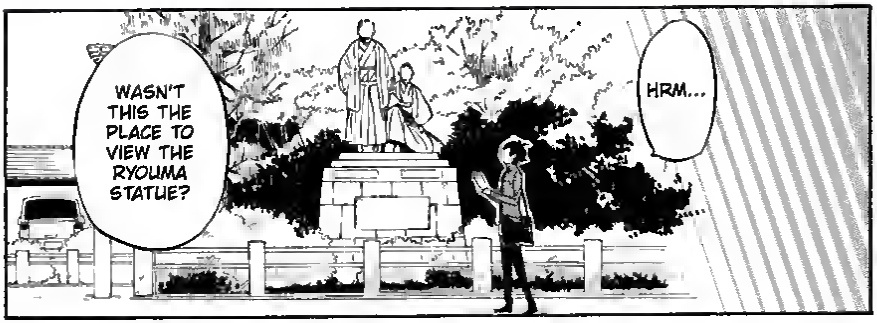
BY HIS SIDE IS HIS FELLOW TOSA SAMURAI, SHINTAROU NAKAOKA.
THIS IS RYOUMA'S GRAVE?
HE SURELY REGRETTED HIS PLANS BEING HALF-FINISHED.
IN-DEED.
HEY, YOU KNOW...
HE MUST'VE HAD REGRETS, DYING WITH HIS PLANS HALF-FINISHED.
YOU'RE SO UNCOUTH.
NOT WHEN HE HAD HIS WIFE, ORYOU-SAN.
...I BET RYOUMA NEVER EXPECTED HE'D END UP BURIED SIDE BY SIDE WITH NAKAOKA-KUN!
NOT YOU TOO!
THE WAY YOU JOKE ABOUT HISTORY SHOWS WHY YOU'LL ALWAYS BE STUPID!!
IS IT GETTING KINDA CHILLY HERE?
I THINK I FEEL A GHOST!
I'D BE HAPPY.
AFTER MY DEATH, I WANT TO SLEEP NEXT TO HANDA-SAN.


PAY ATTENTION!
YEAH, REALLY.
SAY, ISN'T THIS RYOUMA STATUE KINDA SMALL?
...OUR DIGNITY AS A NATION!
YES, INDEED.
THE EXISTENCE OF BAKUMATSU PATRIOTS LIKE RYOUMA HELPED TO PROTECT...

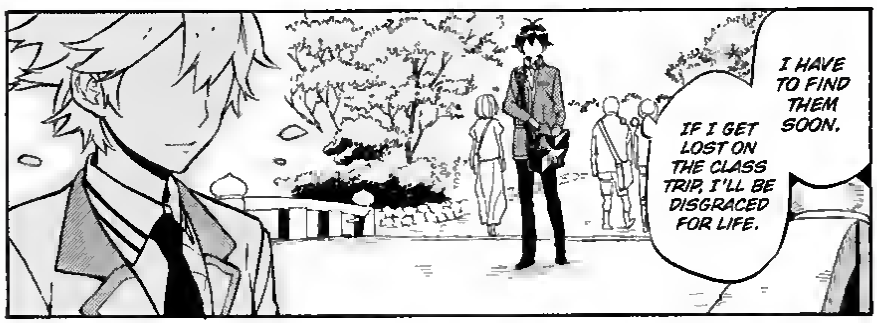

HMPH. YOU'RE TAKING THE SAME ROUTE AS US AGAIN.
YOU CAN SEE THE BIG STATUE ONCE WE GET TO MARUYAMA PARK.

I TOLD YOU TO QUIT THAT!! YOU'LL END UP CAUSING TROUBLE FOR HANDA-KUN AGAIN!
HUUH? YOU WANNA FIGHT?
スラリ
SURARI (SWISH)
CUT THE CRAP ALREADY!
YOU GUYS GO SOMEPLACE ELSE!


HE'S GONE!
AGAIN!?
HANDA-KUN, YOU TELL THEM TO KNOCK IT OFF TOO...

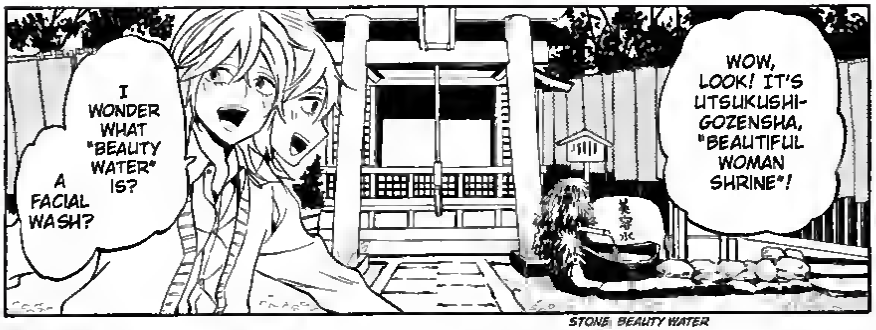

WASN'T THIS THE PLACE TO VIEW THE RYOUMA STATUE?
HRM...

そわ
SOWA
そわ
SOWA (FIDGET)
I STAYED TOO FAR FROM MY GROUP AT THE MUSEUM...
...AND WE GOT SEPARAT-ED.
DID THEY ALREADY GO THROUGH THE PARK AND ON TO THE NEXT SPOT?


I HAVE TO FIND THEM SOON.
IF I GET LOST ON THE CLASS TRIP, I'LL BE DISGRACED FOR LIFE.

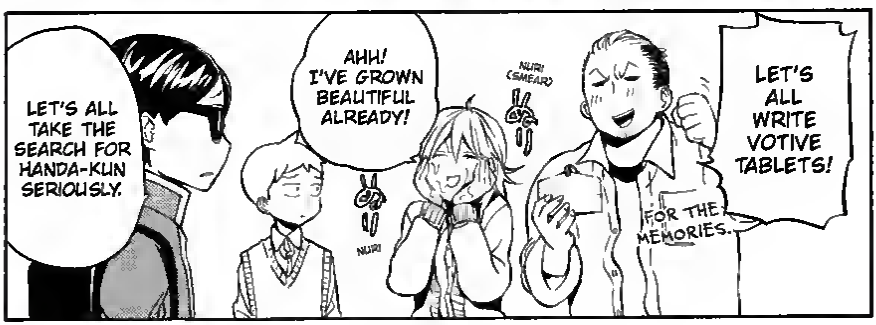
SYO

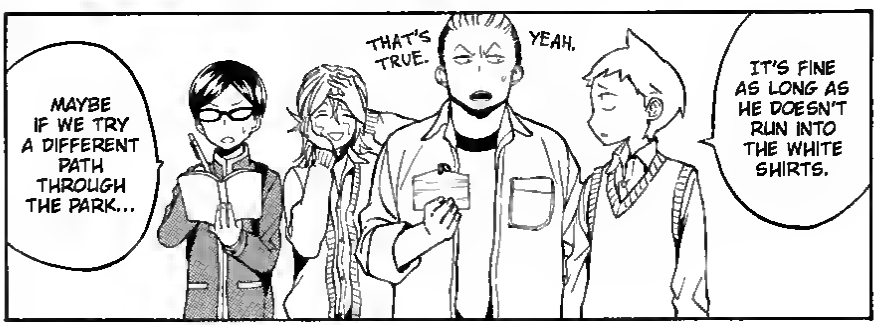
WELL, WELL... HANDA-KUN.

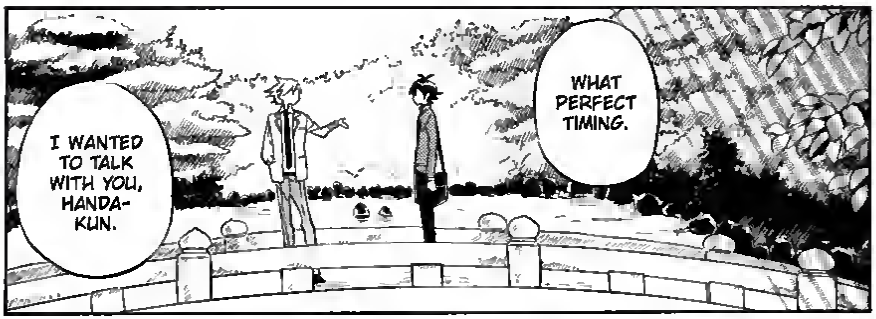



STONE: BEAUTY WATER

HANDA-KUN ISN'T HERE EITHER...
REO-KUN, PLEASE DON'T MAKE TROUBLE FOR PEOPLE.
ZABA (SPLASH)
ZABA (SPLASH)
MY BEAUTY SENSES ARE AT MAX!

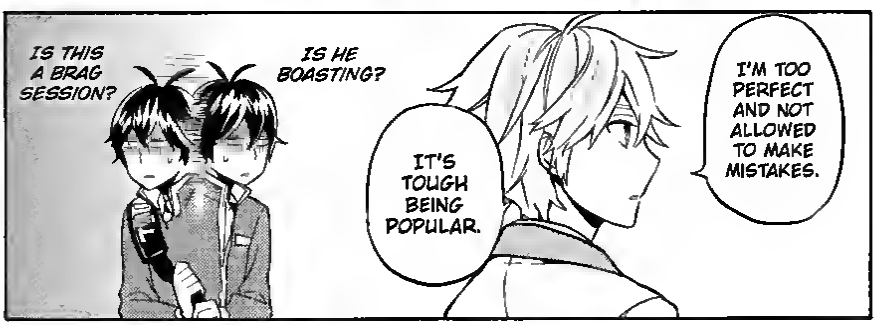

LET'S ALL TAKE THE SEARCH FOR HANDA-KUN SERIOUSLY.
AHH! I'VE GROWN BEAUTIFUL ALREADY!
NURI
NURI (SMEAR)
LET'S ALL WRITE VOTIVE TABLETS!
FOR THE MEMORIES.




I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU, HANDA-KUN.
WHAT PERFECT TIMING.

ISN'T EVERY DAY EXHAUSTING FOR YOU?
UWAAAH! A POPULAR GUY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL TALKED TO ME!!!
TALK?

I GET COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED MYSELF, HAVING TO LIVE UP TO PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS.
EX-HAUST-ING?
?


IS THIS A BRAG SESSION?
IS HE BOASTING?
IT'S TOUGH BEING POPULAR.
I'M TOO PERFECT AND NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE MISTAKES.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, HANDA-KUN?
EVER FIND THAT PEOPLE AROUND YOU LOOK LIKE ENEMIES?
NOT FOR THE SAME REASON...
I...CAN'T SAY THAT I'VE EVER FELT THAT SORT OF PRESSURE.
I'M NOT ONE OF MY SUBJECTS SEEKING A WAY TO SABOTAGE YOU.
DON'T HOLD BACK YOUR TRUE FEEL-INGS.
LET'S BE CANDID, AS FELLOW KINGS?
OR WITH YOUR ARMY.
KINGS? SUBJECTS? WHAT'S THIS GUY TALKING ABOUT?
IS HE FROM A SMART-PHONE GAME?
GO ON, EXPRESS YOUR DISCON-TENTMENT WITH YOUR CLASS-MATES.
DON'T TELL ME HE PLANS TO GET ME TO SLANDER MY GROUP...
...AND THEN TATTLE TO THEM ABOUT IT AFTER-WARD?
COME, LET'S DISCUSS ...
...OUR TRUE FEEL-INGS.
TWISTED SELF-PRESER-VATION INSTINCT

NO, WAIT...
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I GOT AHEAD OF MYSELF THERE, GOING STRAIGHT TO DISCUSSING OUR TRUE FEELINGS.
CRAP, THAT WAS BAD...I WENT ON MY GUARD BY REFLEX, THINKING I WAS UNDER ATTACK.
...WOULDN'T SAY WEIRD STUFF.
A NICE, TRUSTWORTHY PERSON LIKE ICHIMIYA-KUN...
HANDA-KUN...

WOULD YOU BE FRIENDS WITH ME?
FRIENDS?
F—

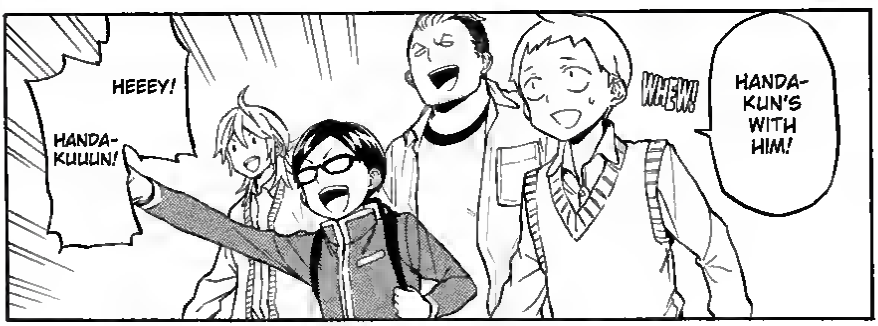
WHERE ARE YOU?
HANDA-SAAN!
HANDA-KUUUN!
"THE CLASS TRIP IS A CHANCE TO MAKE FRIENDS!"
FRIENDS...!?
HANDA-SAN'S...
...NO-WHERE TO BE FOUND.
BET HE MOVED ON TO THE NEXT PLACE WHILE WE WERE ALL WRITING VOTIVE TABLETS.
BUT THAT'S TERADAYA, AND HE'D HAVE TO TAKE THE TRAIN THERE...SO THAT CAN'T BE IT.
...DON'T TELL ME...
LIKE A STAMP RALLY
FURU (TREMBLE)
FURU
...THE WHITE SHIRT BASTARDS CAUGHT HIM BY SURPRISE AND TOOK HIM TO A DARK WATERFRONT WARE-HOUSE...
THOSE WHITE SHIRTS YOU SUSPECT ARE HAPPILY COLLECTING SHRINE SEALS AT THIS MOMENT.

ENOUGH OF THIS PLOT DEVICE!
WHERE'S HANDA-SAN!?
HEY!
YOU GUYS AGAIN!?
HRMM, WE'RE IN A REAL BIND.
DON'T SAY HIS NAME LIKE YOU'RE CLOSE!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM OUR-SELVES.
HANDA?
STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET?
THAT'D BE A GREAT HELP!
FOR REAL?
ICHIMIYA-KUN HAS TEN THOUSAND FOLLOWERS IN KYOTO.
SINCE ICHIMIYA-SAN'S IN MARUYAMA PARK...
...WANNA ASK HIM TO LOOK?
HOLD IT, GUYS!
SOME-HOW OR ANOTHER, THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG NOW.
ICHIMIYA-KUN'S MORE AMAZING!
NO, HANDA-KUN'S MORE AMAZING!
HANDA-KUN WOULD DO THAT MUCH TOO.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.

GRAY-SCHOOL IS THE ENEMY!
YOU CAN'T BE FRIENDLY WITH THEM!
BUT THEY'RE IN A REAL BIND.
YEAH, AND WE'LL REPAY THE FAVOR.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
AREN'T WE HERE TO MAKE ICHIMIYA-KUN LOOK GOOD?
JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW OUR LEAD, BIT PLAYER.
CHARACTER ROLES DON'T DIRECT BIT PLAYERS!

OH!
ICHI-MIYA-KUN!


HANDA-KUN'S WITH HIM!
HEEEY!
HANDA-KUUUN!

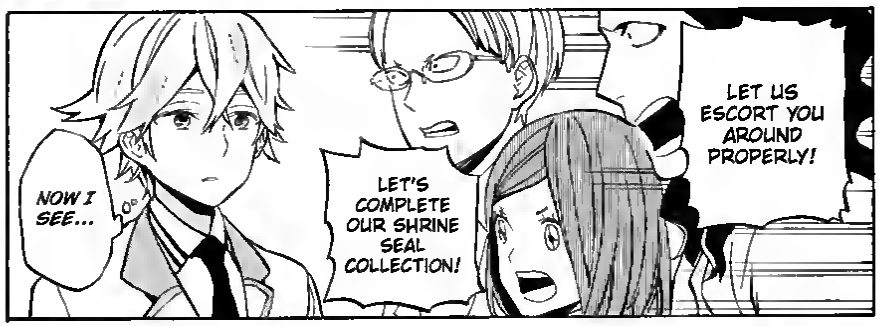
WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS.
!?

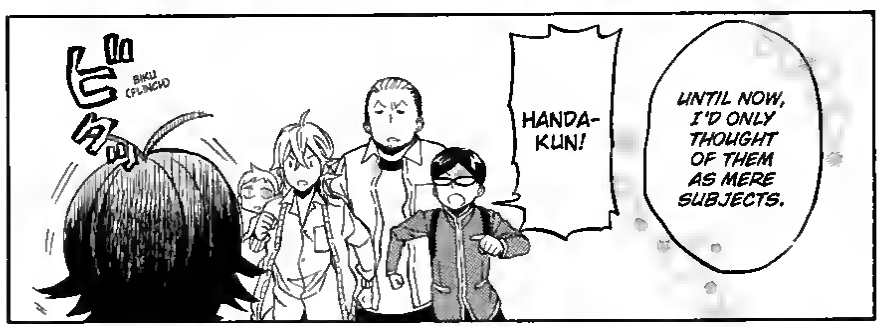
HANDA-KUN'S REJECTED ICHIMIYA-KUN'S FRIENDSHIP?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHICH MEANS...
...WITH THESE GUYS...
...IT'S NOW ALL-OUT WAR...
I DON'T WANT TO BE ENVIED.
su (SHFF)

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH A POPULAR GUY LIKE YOU, ICHIMIYA-KUN.
BESIDES, DON'T YOU HAVE FRIENDS ALREADY?

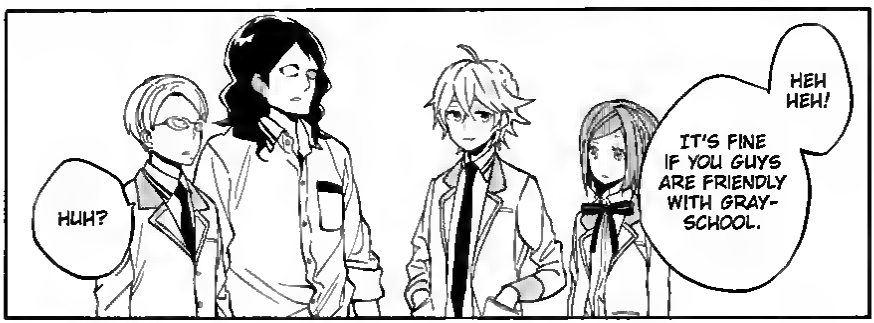
ICHI-MIYA-KUN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A ONE-ON-ONE MATCH!?
ARE YOU HURT?
HURT?
WHY?

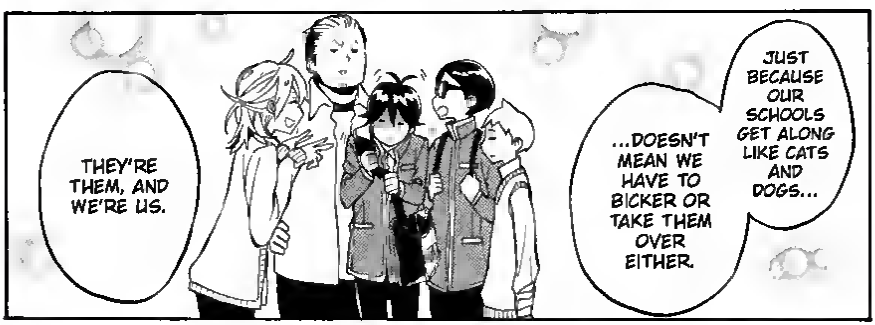
I'M FINE.
I JUST WANTED TO TALK.
A KING CAN'T JUST HEAD OFF ON HIS OWN!


LET US ESCORT YOU AROUND PROPERLY!
LET'S COMPLETE OUR SHRINE SEAL COLLECTION!
NOW I SEE...


UNTIL NOW, I'D ONLY THOUGHT OF THEM AS MERE SUBJECTS.
HANDA-KUN!
BIKU! CFLINCH!

WELL, IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'VE GOT YOU NOW!
GABA (HOLD)
BIKU (CLINCH)
MENACE
WHY DID YOU DISAP-PEAR?
BUT ACCORDING TO HANDA-KUN...
COMPLAINT
...THEY'RE ACTUALLY MY FRIENDS.
LET'S JUST HEAD TO THE STATION.
GEEZ! YOU OWE US SODAS FOR THIS!
EXTORTION
COERCION
THERE'S NO TIME FOR TERADAYA.


HUH?
HEH HEH!
IT'S FINE IF YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDLY WITH GRAY-SCHOOL.


THEY'RE THEM, AND WE'RE US.
...DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO BICKER OR TAKE THEM OVER EITHER.
JUST BECAUSE OUR SCHOOLS GET ALONG LIKE CATS AND DOGS...

BUT FOR ME, BECOMING FRIENDS WITH YOU GUYS COMES FIRST.
ICHI-MIYA-KUN...
HEH HEH...
THIS HAS BEEN A VERY FRUITFUL CLASS TRIP.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

BIT PLAYER !?
RECONCILIATION IS UNTHINKABLE!
ICHIMIYA-KUN MUST BE NUMBER ONE!
!?
HANDAAAA!
DIEEEEE!
DON (WHAM)
HANDA-KUN, LOOK OUT!
WHAT'S WITH HIM!?
BA (ZOOM)
GUHAAAA (LUNGE)
HANDAAAA

BASHIN (SLAP)
ゆきちゃん！
YUKI-KUN!
YUKI-CCHI!
UWAAAH!
THAT HUURT!
BASHAN (SPLASH)
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO LEAVE HIM ALONE?
...NO-NAME CHARAC-TER!
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
YOU'RE JUST AN AVERAGE, MUNDANE...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
I TOLD YOU, HANDA-KUN GETS HURT EASILY.
EEEEEK!

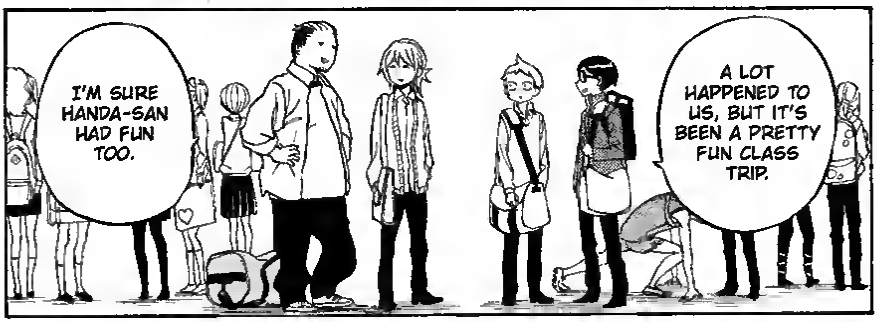
YUKI, THAT'S ENOUGH.
HOLD IT! WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
CALM DOWN!
SAVE ME, ICHIMIYA-KUN!
I TRULY APOLO-GIZE.
HE ACTED ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.
WAAH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU PLEASE FORGIVE HIM FOR ME?
WHEW. HE BACKED OFF!
IF YOU UNDER-STAND, THEN GOOD.

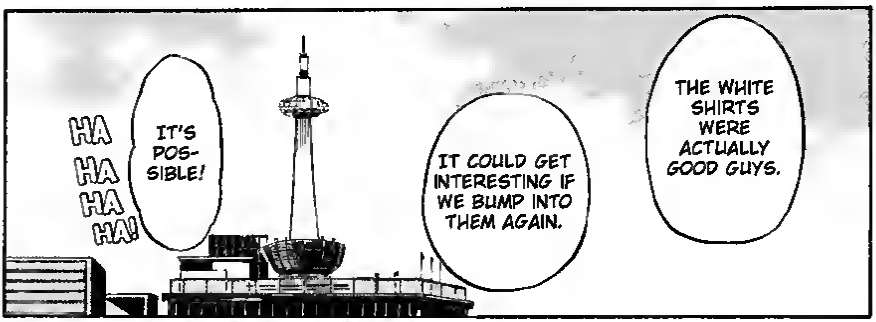
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I ACTED WITHOUT THINKING.
UNNG...
I DECLARE THE FEUD BETWEEN WHITE SHIRTS AND GRAY-SCHOOL OVER.
YOU LIVE IN THE NEXT TOWN. WE CAN SETTLE THIS ANY-TIME.
GASHI (GRIP)
SEE YA LATER. WE'RE TAKING A DIFFERENT BULLET TRAIN HOME, SO I'LL SAY SO LONG HERE.
I SPLASHED IT ALL OVER ME!
THEY'VE GOT "BEAUTY WATER" THERE!
GU (CLASP)
DID YOU VISIT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SHRINE?
WHAT? THERE'S A PLACE LIKE THAT?
REALLY!? NOW I WANNA GO!
NO REAL CHANGE
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT MOCK EXAM.
URK!
TELL ME WHICH SCHOOL AKANE-KUN TRANSFERRED TO!

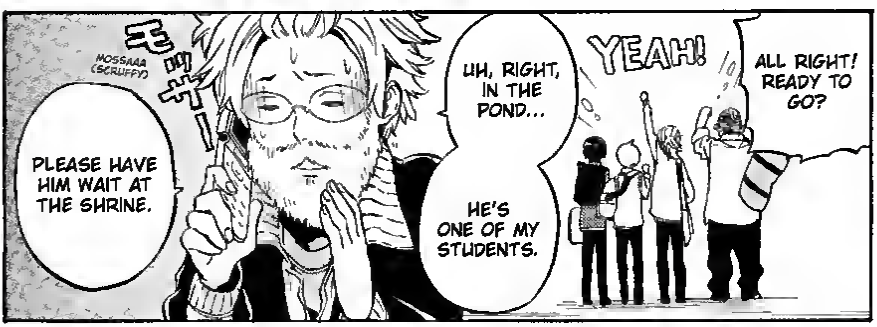
SEE YA LATER!
* MEGO (WHIMPER)
MEGO
MEGO
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE, GRAY-SCHOOL STUDENTS.
HEH-HEH.. FROM NOW ON, THEY'RE MY FRIENDS, HUH?
LATER, OKAY?
ICHIMIYA-KUN, TRYANGLE THIS AS A TOKEN OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.
...IS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN HANDA-KUN'S INVOLVED.
SHIKU (SOB)
SHIKU
EVEN SO, THAT NORMAL-ISH KID...
I SEE. SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
"...WILL SPLINTER YOUR PSYCHE."
"GETTING TOO CLOSE TO HIM...

SEI HANDA IS A MAN TO BE FEARED.
YA HASHIN' ON MY YATSUHASHI?
AUGH!
IT'S ALREADY TIME TO MEET UP AT THE STATION!
HUH? WHERE'S HANDA-SAN?
ZABU
ZABU (SPLISH)

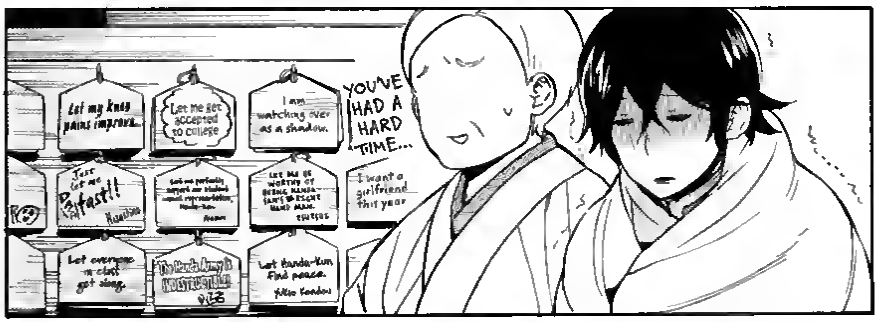
AND I BOUGHT A TRADITIONAL-PRINT SLEEVE TIE!
CHECK IT OUT! I BOUGHT A TRADITIONAL-PRINT FACE MASK!
YOU GUYS REALLY WENT ALL-OUT, HUH.
京都 KYOTO
東野
SHIRT: HIGASHINO

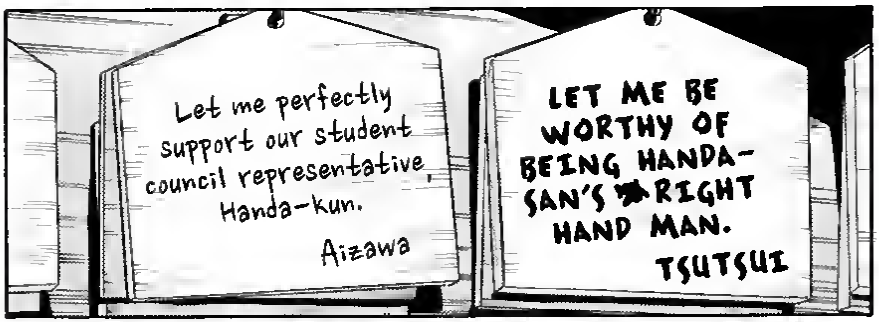

I'M SURE HANDA-SAN HAD FUN TOO.
A LOT HAPPENED TO US, BUT IT'S BEEN A PRETTY FUN CLASS TRIP.


HA HA HA HA!
IT'S POS-SIBLE!
IT COULD GET INTERESTING IF WE BUMP INTO THEM AGAIN.
THE WHITE SHIRTS WERE ACTUALLY GOOD GUYS.


MOSSAAA (SCRUFFY)
PLEASE HAVE HIM WAIT AT THE SHRINE.
UH, RIGHT, IN THE POND...
HE'S ONE OF MY STUDENTS.
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT! READY TO GO?

YOUR TEACHER SHOULD BE HERE VERY SOON.
BURU (SHIVER)
BURU


Let my knee pains improve.
Let me get accepted to college
I am watching over as a shadow.
Let me be Fastest!!
Let me perfectly support our student council representative, Handa-kun.
Aizawa
LET ME BE WORTHY OF BEING HANDA-SAN'S RIGHT HAND MAN.
TSUTSUI
Let everyone in class get along.
The Handa Army is INDESTRUCTIBLE!
Let Handa-kun Find peace.
Yukio Kondou
YOU'VE HAD A HARD TIME...
I want a girlfriend this year
.....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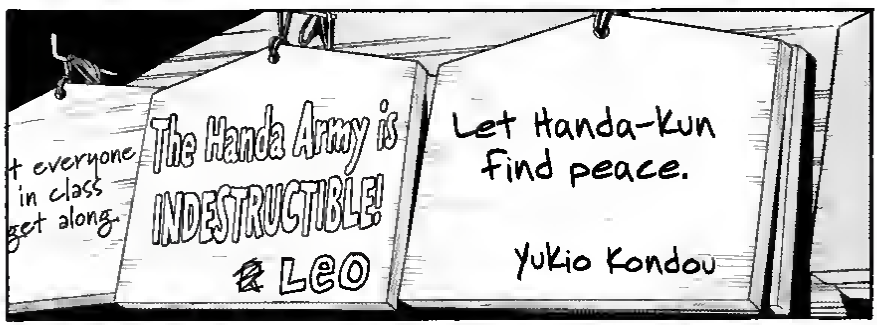
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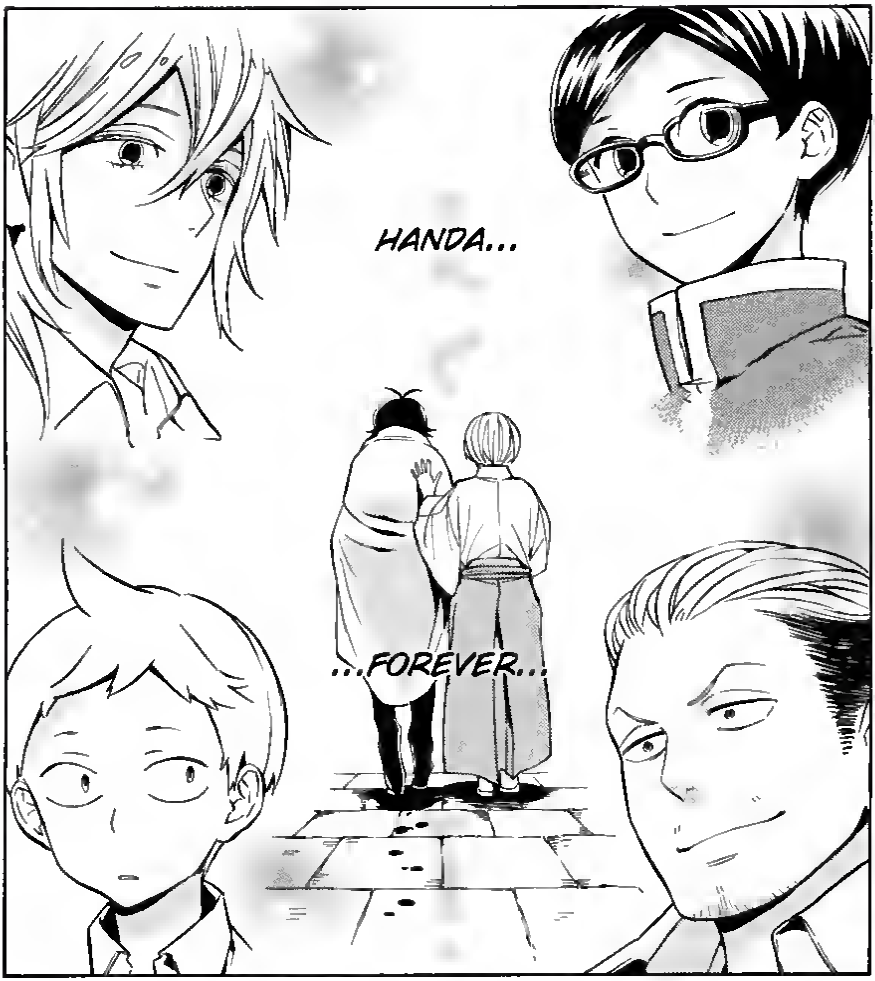


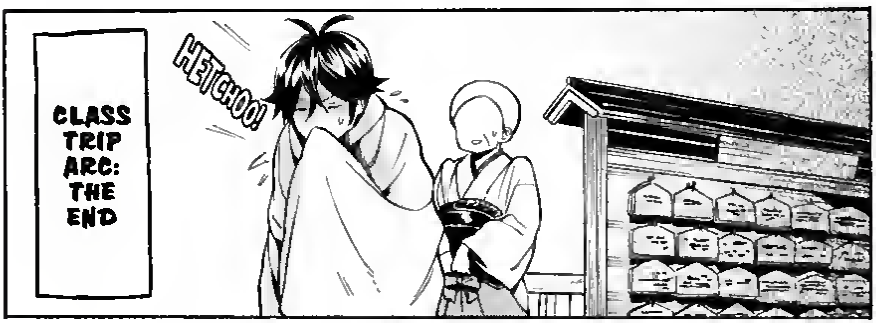




TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER OF HANDA-KUN!

**COMMON HONORIFICS**

**no honorific**: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

***-san***: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

***-sama***: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

***-kun***: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

***-chan***: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

***-sensei***: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

*PAGE 1*

**Bakumatsu**: A time of violent power struggles over Japan's future between 1853 and 1867, which led to the end of the Tokugawa shogunate's centuries-long feudal military rule and isolationist foreign policy and the restoration of political power to the Emperor in the Meiji Restoration.

**Ryouma Sakamato**: An important figure involved in many parts of the process of Japan opening to the world and changing its system of government during the Bakumatsu period. Unfortunately, he died too soon to see the results of his work, as he was assassinated in Kyoto on Dec. 10, 1867, less than one month before the Meiji Restoration on Jan. 8, 1868. We really can't do him justice in a short translation note, but his charisma, revolutionary ideals, and varied interests make him a figure as widely adored in Japan as the Founding Fathers are in the United States.

**Ryozen History Museum**: A museum dedicated to the history of the Bakumatsu period and the Meiji Restoration. And yes, visitors really can dress up like Shinsengumi members for photos.

**Gohoku Shrine**: Gohoku shrines honor Japan's heroes. The Kyoto location, next to the Ryozen Museum, was built in 1868 to honor those from the Bakumatsu period. As noted, it houses the gravesite of Kyouma Sakamato, which also includes his associate Shintaro Nakaoka who was fatally wounded at Kyouma's assassination.

**Maruyama Park**: A scenic park in eastern Kyoto city that includes a large bronze statue memorializing both Kyouma Sakamato and his associate Shintaro Nakaoka. The park is especially popular as a cherry-blossom viewing site, but they aren't visiting during the season for that. Only a ten minute walk from the Ryozen Museum, it's an obvious stop to make for a "Bakumatsu Kyouma" tour.

**Teradaya**: Teradaya is the inn where an attempt was made on Ryouma Sakamato's life on March 3, 1866; he was warned just beforehand by Dryou, one of the maids, whom he married soon after. And yes, it's roughly a thirty minute ride south from the other historical sites they're visiting that day.

*PAGE 2*

**John Manjiro** was a Japanese fisherman who got rescued by an American whaling ship after his boat was wrecked in 1841. He went on to learn American customs and technology, as well as the English language, over the next decade on various whaling ships and while living in the United States. He managed to return to Japan in 1951 with relatively little difficulty (considering that leaving Japan was a capital crime during the Edo period) and became a valuable resource for the shogun.

*PAGE 7*

**Honda's horrible sword puns**: The original Japanese lines were "*Sardesu,*" a pun on "sword" and "*Sou desu* (That's right)", "*Kubi o katta no,*" a pun on "*katta* (hunted)" and "*katana* (Japanese longsword)", and "*Katanarashi de,*" a pun on "*katanaroshi* (shoulder warmup exercise)" and "*katana*" again.

*PAGE 8*

**"Ich-eese!"**: Pun mixing "ichi" from Ichimiya with the usual phrase "(Say) Cheese!"

*PAGE 13*

**Maruyama bridge & pond**: The place Ichimiya and Honda meet is an especially scenic spot in the west-central part of Maruyama Park, not far from Yasaka Shrine. Honda approached it from the east, after visiting the Ryouma statue in the south-central part of the park.

*PAGE 14*

**Utsukushi-gozensha**: Meaning "Beautiful Woman Shrine," this subshrine of Yasaka Shrine just west of Maruyama Park is visited by not only women interested in beauty, such as *geisha* or *maiko* (apprentice *geisha*) but also people in professions related to beauty, so it's not that weird for Sea to go there. He's applying the Beauty Water (*Biyousui*) *almost* correctly- you're actually supposed to catch a little water falling from the pipe to spread on your face, rather than splashing on a bunch of water straight from the basin.

**votive tablets**: *Ema* are small wooden tablets, sometimes with illustrations, which people buy from a Shinto shrine to hang up there with their own written wishes or prayers. The word literally means "picture horse," since it evolved from the original custom of donating horses to a shrine for good fortune. There are examples of them hanging at this shrine on the second to last page of the chapter.

*PAGE 19*

**stamp rally**: A common Japanese way to promote tourism by providing a collection book for visitors to go around to a set of different places and get a unique rubber stamp imprint from each one.

**shrine seals**: *Goshuin* is when pilgrims get (frequently red) seal imprints from visiting shrines and temples in an area. Maybe this is what stamp rallies originated from?

*PAGE 33*

**Joomata's horrible puns**: This time it's snacks instead of swords!

For the first one, he offers Ichimiya a Kyoto specialty sweet snack called *otabe*, made from soft *yatsuhashi* dough folded into a triangle over filling (usually sweet bean paste). He makes use of the fact that "*otabe*" is also the polite command form of the verb *taberu* (to eat).

For the second one, he says "*Yappashi yappashi?*": the word is an alternative form of "*yappari* (as I suspected)," and a logical (though incorrect) alternative pronunciation for the snack name *yatsuhashi*, sweet rice dough that is either baked like a cookie or left uncooked to act as a wrapper). An extra dose of grain comes from the fact that those kanji also literally mean "eight bridges", since they're leaving the bridge in the park...

*PAGE 35*

**sleeve tie**: Oash is wearing a *tasuki*, a cord used to tuck & tie up the long sleeves of a kimono. You may have seen this used when characters in traditional clothing are doing house cleaning, etc., in anime or movies.

*PAGE 36*

**peace:** There's a slight oddity with the way that Kondou wrote the word *heiwa* (peace). Though that kanji combination is allowed, normally the second kanji uses the meaning for "calm, quiet," while the one he used means "to hide."

**Leo:** Rei started to write his name with an "R," then scratched that out—because he thought it would look cooler to write his name as "Leo"!

# Honda-kun

Chapter 25

Satsuki Yoshino

**Translation/Adaptation: Krista Shipley, Karie Shipley**
**Lettering: Lys Blakeslee**

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